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SOURCE Trybuna Ludu.

POLES COMPLAIN ABOUT QUALITY OF COAL FOR HOME USE

For some time now, complaints have been heard that coal designated in some localities for heating purposes contains too much shale, and that the type of coal allotted for heating purposes is not suitable for use in stoves.

One of the mines supplying such coal is the Slask coal mine. For the past year, the Slask coal mine, with the consent of the Ministerstwo Gornictwa (Ministry of Mining), has been exploiting, among others, gallery No 620 which has a thickness of 1.6 to 1.8 meters, but contains about one meter of bituminous shale. This shale and coal mixture, of which 40 to 90 percent is shale, is distributed for retail sale as run-of-the-mine coal. Consumers have been complaining to the Slask coal mine that this mixture cannot be burned.

The situation is becoming more acute, and it is about time that it be regulated. The Slask coal mine does not have the facilities for separating shale from coal, nor is this necessary. Shale has over 5,000 calories and is highly combustible. However, it can only be used in industrial furnaces with additional blowers.

Coal from the Slask coal mine contains not only shale, but other impurities. The rock content of the coal extracted is maintained within limits of prescribed norms; however, there are instances when the limits are surpassed. In the screening plant, about 120 tons of rock are picked out daily from coal. This is an important part of the total extraction. Because the management and miners are not too concerned with the quality of the coal, rock is not removed from coal in the mine. The management, primary party organization, and plant council, satisfied that the monthly plans are being surpassed, do not seem to appreciate the fact that not only the quantity, but also the quality of coal mined is important.

In the screening plant of another mine, the Wirek coal mine, about 700 tons of rock are removed daily, but 300-400 tons remain with coal and are sold. The percentage of impurities in various assortments of coal are as follows: nut 1, up to 50 percent; nut 2, up to 40 percent, etc. The management maintains that the situation cannot be remedied until a new washery is built.

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Coal with the largest amount of impurities comes from face No 14, division I, in seam 403 in the Wirek coal mine. Up to 0.4 meter-thick rock runs through the 2.2 meter-thick coal seam. Over the seam lies a 2.5 meter-thick layer of shale clay, creating the so-called false roof on which lies the great weight of sandstone. To prevent shale from falling into the coal, the false roof must be kept up by a system of roof support, i.e., stowing rocks by hand at regular intervals.

In accordance with regulations on coal mining, stowing zones should not be less than 6 meters long, and the intervals between them should not be more than 3 meters long to support the roof. In the Wirek coal mine, however, the prescribed regulations are not followed. Here the stowing zones are from 3 to 4 meters long, and the intervals or gaps are from 4.5 to 7 meters long. Thus the roof breaks and falls, not only in the area to be filled and in the area where the heavy duty chain conveyer is assembled, but also at the face when a miner is making a kerf in a new coal wall. Even though piece rate norms are provided for picking out the rock at the coal face, and conditions are ideal for leaving the rock in the mine, the management does not assign persons to this work.

In January 1952, Augustyn Kurzaj, manager of the screening plant in the Wirek coal mine, and workers suggested that a trough be installed to wash out coal to remove impurities. The plant commission on innovations replied that because a new washery is to be built, it would not be worthwhile to carry out this plan. As a result, there is no washery, the trough has not been installed, and impure coal continues to be delivered to consumers.

The shale-coal mixture from the Siask coal mine should be directed to those industrial plants that can burn this mixture.

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